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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Ferraris et al

Atty. Ref.: 2824-226

Serial No. 09/996,776

Group: 1624

Filed: November 30, 2001

Examiner: KIFLE, B.

For: COMPOUNDS AND THEIR USE

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

\* \* \* \* \*

April 17, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

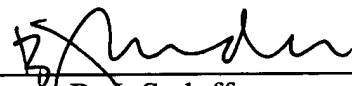
Responsive to the Official Action dated March 17, 2003, the applicants elect the subject matter of the Examiner's Group II for further prosecution in the above. The Office Action does not indicate that a species election is required and such not is being made however the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if the same is thought to be required. The applicants submit a species election should not be required.

An early and favorable Action on the merits of the elected subject matter is requested.

Ferraris et al  
Serial No. 09/996,776  
April 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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